

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Gregory Laboissonniere,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2017-6**

**ORDER**

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on January 9, 2018, pursuant to Commission Regulation 1011, and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the Respondent's Answer, and the proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED**

THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted;

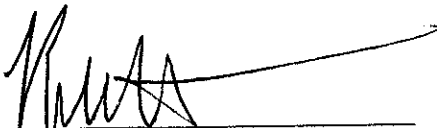
THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, by participating in the Coventry Town Council's discussions and votes on various dates on the license renewal applications for seven (7) Clearent merchants for whom he receives continuing residual commissions, the Respondent violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a);

THAT, by participating in the Coventry Town Council's October 24, 2016 discussion and vote on Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar's liquor license renewal application, the Respondent violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a); and

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500).

Entered as an Order of this Commission,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Dated: January 9, 2018

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Gregory Laboissonniere  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2017-**

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**INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT**

The Respondent, Gregory Laboissonniere, and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows:

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS**

1. The Respondent was first elected to the Coventry Town Council (“Town Council”), a municipal elected position, in November 2012, and has served continuously in said capacity at all times relevant hereto.

2. In his private capacity, the Respondent has been employed since ~~November 2013~~ <sup>April 2012</sup> as an Account Executive for Clearent, LLC (“Clearent”), a company that sells credit card transaction processing equipment and services to retail stores and restaurants (“merchants”).

3. Pursuant to the Respondent’s employment contract with Clearent, once a merchant signs a contract with Clearent and begins processing credit card transactions, the Respondent earns monthly residual income based on Clearent’s “installed margin,” or the profit that Clearent makes on transaction volume from the merchant.

4. During the relevant time period, the Respondent was the Account Executive servicing the following seven (7) Clearent merchants located in Coventry: (1) Sandy Bottom Bait & Tackle; (2) Mid State Gun Company; (3) Chocolate Dreams; (4) A. Pagliarini’s Family Restaurant; (5) Silver Lake Pizza; (6) Summit General Store; and (7) Gentleman Farmer Restaurant. The Respondent received monthly residual commission payments for servicing said

merchants.

5. At the October 27, 2014 Town Council meeting, the Respondent participated in the Town Council's discussion and single vote to approve all 51 victual license renewal applications for various businesses in Coventry which included Chocolate Dreams and Silver Lake Pizza.

6. At the same October 27, 2014 Town Council meeting, the Respondent also participated in a separate discussion and single vote to approve five (5) liquor-with-victualling license renewal applications for various businesses in Coventry which included A. Pagliarini's Family Restaurant.

7. At the October 26, 2015 Town Council meeting, the Respondent participated in the Town Council's discussion and single vote to approve all 54 victual license renewal applications for various businesses in Coventry which included Chocolate Dreams, Summit General Store, Silver Lake Pizza, and Gentleman Farmer Restaurant.

8. At the same October 26, 2015 Town Council meeting, the Respondent also participated in a separate discussion and vote to approve the liquor license renewal application for A. Pagliarini's Family Restaurant.

9. At the October 24, 2016 Town Council meeting, the Respondent participated in the Town Council's discussion and single vote to approve all 51 victual license renewal applications for various businesses in Coventry which included Silver Lake Pizza, Summit General Store, and Gentleman Farmer Restaurant.

10. At the same October 24, 2016 Town Council meeting, the Respondent participated in a separate discussion and single vote to approve two (2) liquor license renewal applications for businesses in Coventry which included A. Pagliarini's Family Restaurant.

11. At the May 9, 2016 Town Council meeting, the Respondent participated in the Town Council's discussion and single vote to approve all 11 second-hand license renewal applications for various businesses in Coventry which included Sandy Bottom Bait & Tackle.

12. At the January 11, 2016 Town Council meeting, the Respondent participated in the Town Council's discussion and single vote to approve three (3) firearms license renewal applications for businesses in Coventry which included Mid State Gun Company.

13. At the January 9, 2017 Town Council meeting, the Respondent participated in the Town Council's discussion and single vote to approve three (3) firearms license renewal applications for businesses in Coventry which included Mid State Gun Company.

14. In his private capacity, the Respondent is also a musician who performs in various restaurants and bars throughout Coventry.

15. The Respondent performed at Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar on various dates during 2016 and received \$150.00 cash payment for each of his performances.<sup>1</sup>

16. At the Town Council's October 24, 2016 meeting, the Respondent participated in the Town Council's discussion and single vote to approve all 19 liquor license renewal applications for various businesses in Coventry which included Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar.

## **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-4(1).

2. By participating in the Town Council's discussions and votes on various dates set forth supra to approve the license renewal applications for the Clearent merchants that he serviced

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<sup>1</sup> The Respondent performed at Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar throughout 2016 including, but not limited to, the following dates: September 9, 16, 23, and 30; October 7, 14, and 21; November 4, 11, 18, and 25; and December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

and for which he received continuing residual commissions, the Respondent had a substantial conflict of interest in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a).

3. As a regular and ongoing musical performer at Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar from whom he received cash payments for his performances on various dates throughout 2016, the Respondent had a business associate relationship with Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar.

4. By participating in the Town Council's discussion and vote on October 24, 2016, to approve the license renewal application for Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar, his business associate, the Respondent had a substantial conflict of interest in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a).

### **III. SETTLEMENT**

Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, to the following, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-13(d) and Commission Regulation 1011:


1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment that the Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-5(a) by participating in the Coventry Town Council's discussions and votes on various dates on the license renewal applications for seven (7) Clearent merchants for whom he receives continuing residual commissions.


2. Said Order and Judgment shall further provide that the Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-5(a) by participating in the Coventry Town Council's October 24, 2016 discussion and vote on Garden Zen Restaurant and Bar's liquor license renewal application.

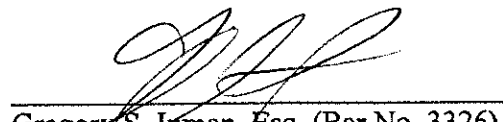
3. The Respondent agrees that, pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Prosecution will recommend the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). The Respondent agrees to the

payment of said civil penalty.

4. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2017-6.

  
Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)  
Commission Prosecutor  
Dated: 12/15/17

  
Gregory Laboissonniere  
Respondent  
Dated: 1/3/18

  
Gregory S. Inman, Esq. (Bar No. 3326)  
Respondent's Counsel  
Dated: 1/3/18